AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the

application:

1-5. (canceled).

6. (currently amended):   An image-forming system, employing a host apparatus and an

image-forming apparatus which are mutually connected, comprising:

a replaceable cartridge possessing a memory element being installed in the image-

forming apparatus, and lottery determination data for determining whether something has been

won being stored in the memory element;

a reading component for reading the lottery determination data from the memory

element;

a lottery determination component that uses lottery determination data read by the

reading component to determine whether something has been won; and

a prize awarding component that performs processing for awarding a prize to a user in

correspondence to the results of a determination carried out by the lottery determination

component when the results of such determination indicate that something has been won;, and

a deleting component that deletes the lottery determination data from the memory

element for preventing repeated awarding of prizes,

wherein the prize awarding component records data indicating that something has been

won in the memory element of the cartridge when the results of a determination carried out by

the lottery determination component indicate that something has been won, ~~as a result of which~~

~~the user is made able to receive the prize upon exchange of the cartridge therefor~~.

7. (currently amended):   An image-forming system, employing a host apparatus and an

image-forming apparatus which are mutually connected, comprising:

a replaceable cartridge possessing a memory element being installed in the image-

forming apparatus, and lottery determination data for determining whether something has been

won being stored in the memory element;

a reading component for reading the lottery determination data from the memory

element;

a lottery determination component that uses lottery determination data read by the

reading component to determine whether something has been won; ~~and~~

a prize awarding component that performs processing for awarding a prize to a user in

correspondence to the results of a determination carried out by the lottery determination

component when the results of such determination indicate that something has been won; <u>and</u>

<u>a deleting component that deletes the lottery determination data from the memory</u>

<u>element for preventing repeated awarding of prizes,</u>

wherein the prize awarding component provides the user with information indicating that

something has been won when the results of a determination carried out by the lottery

determination component indicate that something has been won, ~~as a result of which the user is~~

~~made able to receive the prize by notifying a prescribed organization of the information~~

~~indicating that something has been won~~.

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8. (currently amended): An image-forming system, employing a host apparatus and an image-forming apparatus which are mutually connected, comprising:

a replaceable cartridge possessing a memory element being installed in the image-forming apparatus, and lottery determination data for determining whether something has been won being stored in the memory element;

a reading component for reading the lottery determination data from the memory element;

a lottery determination component that uses lottery determination data read by the reading component to determine whether something has been won;~~and~~

a prize awarding component that performs processing for awarding a prize to a user in correspondence to the results of a determination carried out by the lottery determination component when the results of such determination indicate that something has been won;~~;~~and

<u>a deleting component that deletes the lottery determination data from the memory element for preventing repeated awarding of prizes,</u>

wherein prize data, being the prize itself or data for obtaining the prize from a prescribed prize awarding organization, is stored in the memory element, and

the prize awarding component reads the prize data from the memory element when the results of a determination carried out by the lottery determination component indicate that something has been won, and uses the prize data to award the prize to the user.

9-11. (canceled).

12. (currently amended):   An image-forming system, employing a host apparatus and an

image-forming apparatus which are mutually connected, comprising:

a replaceable cartridge possessing a memory element being installed in the image-

forming apparatus, and prize data, being a prize itself or data for obtaining a prize from a

prescribed prize awarding organization, being stored in the memory element;

a component that determines whether something has been won in connection with use of

the image-forming apparatus or the host apparatus, and reads the prize data from the memory

element and uses the prize data to award a prize to a user when the results of that determination

indicate that something has been won and deletes the prize data from the memory element for

preventing repeated awarding of prizes,

wherein the prize data comprises at least one species selected from among the group

consisting of image data serving as a prize itself, image-forming apparatus driver information

serving as a prize itself, a keyword or password which must be supplied to a prescribed prize

awarding organization in order obtain a prize, and a URL of a network site which awards a prize.

13. (currently amended):   An image-forming system, employing a host apparatus and an

image-forming apparatus which are mutually connected, comprising:

a replaceable cartridge possessing a memory element being installed in the image-

forming apparatus, and usage data indicating an amount of use to date of the image-forming

apparatus or the cartridge being stored in the memory element;

a reading component that reads the usage data from the memory element; and

a prize awarding component that performs processing for awarding a prize to a user in

correspondence to the usage data read by the reading component; and.

a subtracting component that subtracts an amount of use corresponding to the prize from

usage data stored in the memory element.

14. - 17. (canceled).

18. (currently amended):   An image-forming apparatus in an image-forming system, wherein

a host apparatus and the image-forming apparatus are mutually connected, comprising:

a replaceable cartridge possessing a memory element being installed in the image-

forming apparatus, and prize data, being a prize itself or data for obtaining a prize from a

prescribed prize awarding organization, being stored in the memory element;

a component that determines whether something has been won in connection with use of

the image-forming apparatus or the host apparatus, and reads the prize data from the memory

element and uses the prize data to award a prize to a user when the results of that determination

indicate that something has been won, and deletes the prize data from the memory element for

preventing repeated awarding of prizes,

wherein the prize data comprises at least one species selected from among the group

consisting of image data serving as a prize itself, image-forming apparatus driver information

serving as a prize itself, a keyword or password which must be supplied to a prescribed prize

awarding organization in order obtain a prize, and a URL of a network site which awards a prize.

19. (currently amended):   An image-forming apparatus in an image-forming system, wherein

a host apparatus and the image-forming apparatus are mutually connected, comprising:

    a replaceable cartridge possessing a memory element being installed in the image-

forming apparatus, and usage data indicating an amount of use to date of the image-forming

apparatus or the cartridge being stored in the memory element;

    a reading component that reads the usage data from the memory element; and

    a prize awarding component that performs processing for awarding a prize to a user in

correspondence to the usage data read by the reading component; and-

    a subtracting component that subtracts an amount of use corresponding to the prize from

usage data stored in the memory element.

20-21. (canceled).

22. (currently amended):   A host apparatus in an image-forming system wherein an image-

forming apparatus and the host apparatus are mutually connected, a replaceable cartridge

possessing a memory element being installed in the image-forming apparatus, and prize data,

being a prize itself or data for obtaining a prize from a prescribed prize awarding organization,

being stored in the memory element, the image-forming system performing a determination of

whether something has been won in connection with use of the image-forming apparatus or the

host apparatus, the host apparatus comprising:

    a prize awarding component that receives the results of the determination of whether

something has been won from the image-forming system and uses prize data read from the

memory element by the image-forming apparatus to perform processing for awarding a prize to a

user when the results of that determination indicate that something has been won; and;

a deleting component that deletes the prize data from the memory element for preventing

repeated awarding of prizes,

wherein the prize data comprises at least one species selected from among the group

consisting of image data serving as a prize itself, image-forming apparatus driver information

serving as a prize itself, a keyword or password which must be supplied to a prescribed prize

awarding organization in order obtain a prize, and a URL of a network site which awards a prize.

23. (currently amended):   A host apparatus in an image-forming system wherein an image-

forming apparatus and the host apparatus are mutually connected, a replaceable cartridge

possessing a memory element being installed in the image-forming apparatus, and usage data

indicating an amount of use to date of the image-forming apparatus or the cartridge being stored

in the memory element, the host apparatus comprising:

a prize awarding component that performs processing for awarding a prize to a user in

correspondence to usage data read from the cartridge memory element by the image-forming

apparatus; and;

a subtracting component that subtracts an amount of use corresponding to the prize from

usage data stored in the cartridge memory element.

24-29. (canceled).

30. (currently amended):   A method for providing a benefit to a user, by employing a

cartridge capable of being replaceably installed in an image-forming apparatus in an image-

forming system wherein a host apparatus and the image-forming apparatus are mutually

connected, and wherein prize data, being a prize itself or data for obtaining a prize from a

prescribed prize awarding organization, is stored in a memory element of the cartridge, the

method comprising

        a lottery determination step wherein a determination of whether something has been won

in connection with use of the image-forming apparatus or the host apparatus is performed;

        a prize data reading step wherein the prize data is read when the results of a

determination carried out at the lottery determination step indicate that something has been won;

~~and~~

        a prize awarding step wherein the prize data read at the prize data reading step is used to

perform processing for awarding a prize to a user when the results of a determination carried out

at the lottery determination step indicate that something has been won; and~~,~~

        a deleting step wherein the prize data is deleted from the memory element for preventing

repeated awarding of prizes,

        wherein the prize data comprises at least one species selected from among the group

consisting of image data serving as a prize itself, image-forming apparatus driver information

serving as a prize itself, a keyword or password which must be supplied to a prescribed prize

awarding organization in order obtain a prize, and a URL of a network site which awards a prize.

31. (currently amended):   A method for providing a benefit to a user, by employing a

cartridge capable of being replaceably installed in an image-forming apparatus, usage data

indicating an amount of use to date of the image-forming apparatus or the cartridge being stored

in a memory element of the cartridge, the method comprising:

a reading step wherein the usage data is read from the memory element;-and

a prize awarding step wherein processing for awarding a prize to a user is performed in

correspondence to the usage data read at the reading step; and-

a subtracting step wherein an amount of use corresponding to the prize is subtracted from

usage data stored in the memory element.

32-33. (canceled).

34. (currently amended):   A computer program product for a host apparatus in an image-

forming system, wherein an image-forming apparatus and the host apparatus are mutually

connected, a replaceable cartridge possessing a memory element being installed in the image-

forming apparatus, and prize data, being a prize itself or data for obtaining a prize from a

prescribed prize awarding organization, being stored in the cartridge memory element, the

image-forming system performing a determination of whether something has been won in

connection with use of the image-forming apparatus or the host apparatus, the computer program

product comprising:

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing the host apparatus to

execute processing for receiving the results of the determination of whether something has been

won from the image-forming system and for using prize data read from the memory element by

the image-forming apparatus to award a prize to a user when the results of that determination

indicate that something has been won, -and for deleting the prize data from the memory element

for preventing repeated awarding of prizes,

wherein the prize data comprises at least one species selected from among the group

consisting of image data serving as a prize itself, image-forming apparatus driver information

serving as a prize itself, a keyword or password which must be supplied to a prescribed prize

awarding organization in order obtain a prize, and a URL of a network site which awards a prize.

35. (currently amended):   A computer program product for a host apparatus in an image-

forming system, wherein an image-forming apparatus and the host apparatus are mutually

connected, a replaceable cartridge possessing a memory element being installed in the image-

forming apparatus, usage data indicating an amount of use to date of the image-forming

apparatus or the cartridge being stored in that cartridge memory element, the computer program

product comprising:

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing the host apparatus to

execute processing for awarding a prize to a user in correspondence to usage data read from the

cartridge memory element by the image-forming apparatus and for subtracting- an amount of use

corresponding to the prize from usage data stored in the memory element.

36-56. (canceled).

57. (currently amended):   An image-forming apparatus in an image-forming system, wherein

a host apparatus and the image-forming apparatus are mutually connected, comprising;

a replaceable cartridge possessing a memory element being installed in the image-

forming apparatus, and lottery determination data for determining whether something has been

won being stored in the memory element;

a reading component for reading the lottery determination data from the memory

element;

a lottery determination component that uses lottery determination data read by the

reading component to determine whether something has been won;~~and~~

a prize awarding component that performs processing for awarding a prize to a user in

correspondence to the results of a determination carried out by the lottery determination

component when the results of such determination indicate that something has been won~~,~~; and

<u>a deleting component that deletes the lottery determination data from the memory</u>

<u>element for preventing repeated awarding of prizes,</u>

wherein the prize awarding component records data indicating that something has been

won in the memory element of the cartridge when the results of a determination carried out by

the lottery determination component indicate that something has been won, as a result of which

the user is made able to receive the prize upon exchange of the cartridge therefor.

58. (currently amended):   An image-forming apparatus in an image-forming system, wherein

a host apparatus and the image-forming apparatus are mutually connected, comprising;

a replaceable cartridge possessing a memory element being installed in the image-

forming apparatus, and lottery determination data for determining whether something has been

won being stored in the memory element;

a reading component for reading the lottery determination data from the memory

element;

a lottery determination component that uses lottery determination data read by the

reading component to determine whether something has been won;~~and~~

a prize awarding component that performs processing for awarding a prize to a user in

correspondence to the results of a determination carried out by the lottery determination

component when the results of such determination indicate that something has been won~~;~~, and

<u>a deleting component that deletes the lottery determination data from the memory</u>

<u>element for preventing repeated awarding of prizes,</u>

wherein the prize awarding component provides the user with information indicating that

something has been won when the results of a determination carried out by the lottery

determination component indicate that something has been won, as a result of which the user is

made able to receive the prize by notifying a prescribed organization of the information

indicating that something has been won.

59. (currently amended):   An image-forming apparatus in an image-forming system, wherein

a host apparatus and the image-forming apparatus are mutually connected, comprising;

a replaceable cartridge possessing a memory element being installed in the image-

forming apparatus, and lottery determination data for determining whether something has been

won being stored in the memory element;

a reading component for reading the lottery determination data from the memory

element;

a lottery determination component that uses lottery determination data read by the

reading component to determine whether something has been won; and

a prize awarding component that performs processing for awarding a prize to a user in

correspondence to the results of a determination carried out by the lottery determination

component when the results of such determination indicate that something has been won; and

a deleting component that deletes the lottery determination data from the memory

element for preventing repeated awarding of prizes,.

wherein prize data, being the prize itself or data for obtaining the prize from a prescribed

prize awarding organization, is stored in the memory element, and

the prize awarding component reads the prize data from the memory element when the

results of a determination carried out by the lottery determination component indicate that

something has been won, and uses the prize data to award the prize to the user.

60. (currently amended):   A host apparatus in an image-forming system wherein an image-

forming apparatus and the host apparatus are mutually connected, a replaceable cartridge

possessing a memory element being installed in the image-forming apparatus, and lottery

determination data for determining whether something has been won being stored in the memory

element, the host apparatus comprising:

a reading component for reading the lottery determination data from the memory

element;

a lottery determination component that uses lottery determination data read by the

reading component to determine whether something has been won; ~~and~~

a prize awarding component that performs processing for awarding a prize to a user in

correspondence to the results of a determination carried out by the lottery determination

component when the results of such determination indicate that something has been won; and;

<u>a deleting component that deletes the lottery determination data from the memory</u>

<u>element for preventing repeated awarding of prizes,</u>

wherein the prize awarding component records data indicating that something has been

won in the memory element of the cartridge when the results of a determination carried out by

the lottery determination component indicate that something has been won, as a result of which

the user is made able to receive the prize upon exchange of the cartridge therefor.

61. (currently amended):   A host apparatus in an image-forming system wherein an image-

forming apparatus and the host apparatus are mutually connected, a replaceable cartridge

possessing a memory element being installed in the image-forming apparatus, and lottery

determination data for determining whether something has been won being stored in the memory

element, the host apparatus comprising:

a reading component for reading the lottery determination data from the memory

element;

a lottery determination component that uses lottery determination data read by the

reading component to determine whether something has been won; and

a prize awarding component that performs processing for awarding a prize to a user in

correspondence to the results of a determination carried out by the lottery determination

component when the results of such determination indicate that something has been won; and

a deleting component that deletes the lottery determination data from the memory

element for preventing repeated awarding of prizes,

wherein the prize awarding component provides the user with information indicating that

something has been won when the results of a determination carried out by the lottery

determination component indicate that something has been won, as a result of which the user is

made able to receive the prize by notifying a prescribed organization of the information

indicating that something has been won.

62. (currently amended):   A host apparatus in an image-forming system wherein an image-

forming apparatus and the host apparatus are mutually connected, a replaceable cartridge

possessing a memory element being installed in the image-forming apparatus, and lottery

determination data for determining whether something has been won being stored in the memory

element, the host apparatus comprising:

a reading component for reading the lottery determination data from the memory

element;

a lottery determination component that uses lottery determination data read by the

reading component to determine whether something has been won; ~~and~~

a prize awarding component that performs processing for awarding a prize to a user in

correspondence to the results of a determination carried out by the lottery determination

component when the results of such determination indicate that something has been won: and~~;~~

<u>a deleting component that deletes the lottery determination data from the memory</u>

<u>element for preventing repeated awarding of prizes,</u>

wherein prize data, being the prize itself or data for obtaining the prize from a prescribed

prize awarding organization, is stored in the memory element, and

the prize awarding component reads the prize data from the memory element when the

results of a determination carried out by the lottery determination component indicate that

something has been won, and uses the prize data to award the prize to the user.

63. (currently amended):   A method for providing a benefit to a user, by employing a

cartridge capable of being replaceably installed in an image-forming apparatus, lottery

determination data for determining whether something has been won being stored in a memory

element of the cartridge, the method comprising:

a reading step comprising reading the lottery determination data from the memory

element;

a lottery determination step that uses lottery determination data read in the reading step to

determine whether something has been won; ~~and~~

a prize awarding step comprising processing for awarding a prize to a user in

correspondence to the results of the lottery determination step when the results of such

determination indicate that something has been won, and recording data indicating that

something has been won in the memory element of the cartridge when the results of the lottery

determination step indicate that something has been won, as a result of which the user is made

able to receive the prize upon exchange of the cartridge ~~therefor~~therefore; and~~.~~

<u>a deleting step that deletes the lottery determination data from the memory element for</u>

<u>preventing repeated awarding of prizes.</u>

64. (currently amended):   A method for providing a benefit to a user, by employing a

cartridge capable of being replaceably installed in an image-forming apparatus, lottery

determination data for determining whether something has been won being stored in a memory

element of the cartridge, the method comprising:

a reading step comprising reading the lottery determination data from the memory

element;

a lottery determination step comprising using the lottery determination data read during

the reading step to determine whether something has been won; ~~and~~

a prize awarding step comprising:

performing processing for awarding a prize to a user in correspondence to the

results of the lottery determination step when the results of such determination step indicate that

something has been won, and

providing the user with information indicating that something has been won when

the results of a determination in the lottery determination step indicates that something has been

won, as a result of which the user is made able to receive the prize by notifying a prescribed

organization of the information indicating that something has been won; and

a deleting step comprising deleting the lottery determination data from the memory

element for preventing repeated awarding of prizes.

65. (currently amended):   A method for providing a benefit to a user, by employing a

cartridge capable of being replaceably installed in an image-forming apparatus, lottery

determination data for determining whether something has been won being stored in a memory

element of the cartridge, the method comprising:

a reading step comprising reading the lottery determination data from the memory

element;

a lottery determination step comprising using the lottery determination data read in the

reading step to determine whether something has been won; and

a prize awarding step comprising performing processing for awarding a prize to a user in

correspondence to the results of a determination in the lottery determination step when the results

of such determination indicate that something has been won; and

<u>a deleting step comprising deleting the lottery determination data from the memory</u>

<u>element for preventing repeated awarding of prizes</u>, wherein

prize data, being the prize itself or data for obtaining the prize from a prescribed

prize awarding organization, is stored in the memory element, and

in the prize awarding step, the prize data is read from the memory element when

the results of the determination in the lottery determination step indicates that something

has been won, and the prize data is used to award the prize to the user.

66. (currently amended):   A computer program product for a host apparatus in an image-

forming system, wherein an image-forming apparatus and the host apparatus are mutually

connected, a replaceable cartridge possessing a memory element being installed in the image-

forming apparatus, and lottery determination data for determining whether something has been

won being stored in the memory element, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing a reading component to

read the lottery determination data from the memory element;

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing a lottery determination

component to use lottery determination data read by the reading component to determine

whether something has been won;

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing a prize awarding

component to perform processing for awarding a prize to a user in correspondence to the results

of a determination carried out by the lottery determination component when the results of such

determination indicate that something has been won;~~and~~

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing a the prize awarding

component to record data indicating that something has been won in the memory element of the

cartridge when the results of a determination carried out by the lottery determination component

indicate that something has been won, as a result of which the user is made able to receive the

prize upon exchange of the cartridge ~~therefor~~therefore; and

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing a deleting component to

delete the lottery determination data from the memory element for preventing repeated awarding

of prizes.

67. (currently amended):   A computer program product for a host apparatus in an image-

forming system, wherein an image-forming apparatus and the host apparatus are mutually

connected, a replaceable cartridge possessing a memory element being installed in the image-

forming apparatus, and lottery determination data for determining whether something has been

won being stored in the memory element, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing a reading component to

read the lottery determination data from the memory element;

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing a lottery determination

component to use the lottery determination data read by the reading component to determine

whether something has been won;

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing a prize awarding

component to perform processing for awarding a prize to a user in correspondence to the results

of a determination carried out by the lottery determination component when the results of such

determination indicate that something has been won;~~and~~

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing the prize awarding

component to provide the user with information indicating that something has been won when

the results of a determination carried out by the lottery determination component indicate that

something has been won, as a result of which the user is made able to receive the prize by

notifying a prescribed organization of the information indicating that something has been won;

~~and~~

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing a deleting component to

delete the lottery determination data from the memory element for preventing repeated awarding

of prizes.

68. (currently amended):   A computer program product for a host apparatus in an image-

forming system, wherein an image-forming apparatus and the host apparatus are mutually

connected, a replaceable cartridge possessing a memory element being installed in the image-

forming apparatus, and lottery determination data for determining whether something has been

won being stored in the memory element, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing a reading component to

read the lottery determination data from the memory element;

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing a lottery determination

component to use lottery determination data read by the reading component to determine

whether something has been won;

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing a prize awarding

component to perform processing for awarding a prize to a user in correspondence to the results

of a determination carried out by the lottery determination component when the results of such

determination indicate that something has been won; and

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing the prize awarding

component to read the prize data from the memory element when the results of the determination

carried out by the lottery determination component indicate that something has been won, and to

use the prize data to award the prize to the user; and;

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing a deleting component to

delete the lottery determination data from the memory element for preventing repeated awarding

of prizes,

wherein the prize data, being the prize itself or data for obtaining the prize from a

prescribed prize awarding organization, is stored in the memory element.

69. (previously presented): A method for providing information online from an information-

providing server in response to a request from a client who has an image-forming apparatus

attached replaceably to a cartridge, the method comprising:

acquiring a first resource information in connection with a resource of the client from a

storage resource in the client;

acquiring a second resource information which is in connection with a resource of the

image-forming apparatus and read from a storage resource from the image-forming apparatus;

transmitting information including the first resource information and the second resource

information and indicating a printing environment to the information-providing server;

transmitting a software for control, which is used when the client performs printing using

the cartridge, to the client on the basis of the information indicating a printing environment which

is transmitted from the client; and

updating software which requires to be updated to the software for control which has

been received from the information-providing server.

70. (previously presented):   The method according to claim 69, wherein

the first resource information includes at least a version of a printer driver in the client;

the second resource information includes at least a version of a firmware in the image-

forming apparatus;

the software for control is at least one of a printer driver and a printer firmware that are

used when performing printing using the cartridge.

71. (previously presented):   An information-providing method for providing information online

from an information-providing server in response to a request from a client who has an image-

forming apparatus attached replaceably to a cartridge, the method comprising:

acquiring a first resource information in connection with a resource of the client from a

storage resource in the client;

acquiring a second resource information which is in connection with a resource of the

image-forming apparatus and read from a storage resource from the image-forming apparatus;

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transmitting information including the first resource information and the second resource

information and indicating a printing environment to the information-providing server;

transmitting printing data, which is to be supplied to the image-forming apparatus, to the

client on the basis of the information indicating a printing environment which is transmitted from

the client;

supplying the printing data received from the information-providing server to the image-

forming apparatus as is; and

processing the printing data received from the information-providing server via the client

to perform printing.

72. (previously presented):   The method according to claim 71, wherein the cartridge is

provided with a memory element, an ID of the cartridge is stored in the memory element of the

cartridge, and the information-providing server has a web page corresponding to the cartridge ID

and for providing sample printing data, the method further comprising:

reading the ID of the cartridge from the memory element of the cartridge, and

automatically accessing the web page corresponding to the IDof the cartridge which is

in the memory element of the cartridge and has been read by the image-forming apparatus.

73. (previously presented):   The information-providing method according to claim 69 or 71,

wherein the cartridge is provided with a memory element, and a URL for the information-

providing server and a password for permitting access to the information-providing server by the

client are stored in the memory element, the method further comprising:

reading the URL from the memory element of the cartridge,

using the URL to access the information-providing server indicated by the URL,

reading the password from the memory element of the cartridge, and

transmitting the password inside the memory element of the cartridge, which has been

read by the image-forming apparatus, to the server in response to an inquiry sent from the

information-providing server, thereby connecting to the server.

74. (previously presented):   The information-providing method according to claim 73, wherein

a range of permitting the access in the information-providing server is set to a range which is

different depending on the password.

75. (previously presented):   A system for providing information online from an information-

providing server in response to a request from a client who has an image-forming apparatus

attached replaceably to a cartridge, the system comprising:

the client configured to acquire a first resource information in connection with a resource of

the client from a storage resource in the client;

the client configured to acquire a second resource information which is in connection with

a resource of the image-forming apparatus and read from a storage resource from the image-

forming apparatus;

the client configured to transmit information including the first resource information and

the second resource information and indicating a printing environment to the information-

providing server;

the information-providing server configured to transmits a software for control, which is

used when the client performs printing using the cartridge, to the client on the basis of the

information indicating a printing environment which is transmitted from the client; and

the client further configured to update software which requires to be updated to the

software for control which has been received from the information-providing server.

76. (previously presented):   A system for providing information online from an information-

providing server in response to a request from a client who has an image-forming apparatus

attached replaceably to a cartridge, the system comprising:

a client configured to transmit information indicating a printing environment to the

information-providing server;

an information-providing server configured to transmit printing data, which is to be

supplied to the client on the basis of the information indicating a printing environment which is

transmitted from the client;

the client further configured to supply the printing data received from the information-

providing server to the image-forming apparatus as is; and

the image-forming apparatus configured to process the printing data received from the

information-providing server via the client to perform printing,

wherein the information indicating a printing environment being information

related to both resources of the image-forming apparatus and the client.

77. (previously presented):   A computer program product for providing information online from

an information-providing server in response to a request from a client who has an image-forming

apparatus attached replaceably to a cartridge, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing the client to acquire a first

resource information in connection with a resource of the client from a storage resource in the

client;

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing the client to acquire a

second resource information which is in connection with a resource of the image-forming

apparatus and read from a storage resource from the image-forming apparatus;

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing the client to transmit

information including the first resource information and the second resource information and

indicating a printing environment to the information-providing server;

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing the information-

providing server to transmit a software for control, which is used when the client performs

printing using the cartridge, to the client on the basis of the information indicating a printing

environment which is transmitted from the client; and

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing the client to update

software which requires to be updated to the software for control which has been received from

the information-providing server.

78. (previously presented): A computer program product for providing information online

from an information-providing server in response to a request from a client who has an image-

forming apparatus attached replaceably to a cartridge, the method comprising the steps that:

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing the client to transmit

information indicating a printing environment to the information-providing server;

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing the information-

providing server to transmit printing data, which is to be supplied to the image-forming apparatus,

to the client on the basis of the information indicating a printing environment which is transmitted

from the client;

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing the client to supply the

printing data received from the information-providing server to the image-forming apparatus as is;

and

a computer readable memory storing program codes for causing the information-

providing server to process the printing data received from the information-providing server via

the client to perform printing,

wherein the information indicating a printing environment is information

related to both resources of the image-forming apparatus and the client.

79. (currently amended): A method for providing a benefit, comprising the steps of:

writing a user ID for specifying a user <u>from an image-forming apparatus </u>to a memory

element which has a cartridge ID stored therein, the memory element being possessed by the

cartridge attached to the image-forming apparatus;

acquiring the user ID and the cartridge ID from the memory element of a recovered

cartridge;

increasing a point value corresponding to the acquired user ID by using a point value corresponding to the acquired cartridge ID; and

providing a user specified by the acquired user ID with a benefit when the increased point value exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

80. (previously presented):   The method according to claim 69, wherein

the first resource information includes version of a operating system in the client and a value for free space in storage resource in the client;

the second resource information includes version of a firmware in image-forming apparatus and a value for free space in storage resource in the image-forming apparatus;

determining whether an update of the software for control is necessary based on the information indicating a printing environment.

81. (previously presented):   The method according to claim 69, wherein the information indicating a printing environment includes cartridge ID which is stored a memory element on the cartridge.

82. (previously presented):   The method according to claim 69, further comprising:

determining whether an update of the software for control is necessary based on the information indicating a printing environment;

transmitting the software for control from the information-providing server to the client if

as a result processing to determine whether update is necessary it is found that update is

necessary.

83. (currently amended): A system which uses a host apparatus and image-forming apparatus

that are connected to each other and a server to which the host apparatus is communicably

connected, comprising:

a replaceable cartridge with a memory element is attached to the image-forming

apparatus;

first information including a URL for the server and a cartridge type are stored in the

memory element of the cartridge;

the image-forming apparatus comprises a first memory region for storing second

information in connection with a first computer program in regard to image forming, a first

reading component for reading the first information from the memory element of the cartridge, a

second reading component for reading the second information from the first memory region; and

the host apparatus comprises a receiving component for receiving the first information

and the second information, a second memory region for storing second program type

information in connection with a second computer program in regard to driving the image-

forming apparatus, a first determining component for determining whether an update of the first

computer program is necessary based on the cartridge type in the first information and the

second information, a second determining component for determining whether an update of the

second computer program is necessary based on the cartridge type in the first information and

the second program type information, an access component for accessing the server indicated by

the URL by using the URL if as a result processing to determine whether update is necessary it is

found that update of at least one of the first and second computer program is necessary.

84. (currently amended): A method for determining whether updates are required, the method

comprising:

attaching a replaceable cartridge with a memory element to an image-forming apparatus;

storing first information including a URL for the server and a cartridge type in the

memory element of the cartridge;

storing second information in connection with a first computer program in regard to

driving the image forming apparatus in a first memory region;

storing second program type information in connection with a second computer program

in regard to driving the image forming apparatus;

reading the first information from the memory element of the cartridge and the second

information from the first memory region;

determining whether an update of the first computer program is necessary based on the

cartridge type in the first information and the second information;

determining whether an update of the second computer program is necessary based on the

cartridge type in the first information and the second program type information; and

accessing a server by using the URL stored in the memory element of the cartridge when

an update of the first computer program or the second computer program is necessary.